

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 were pending when last examined. With this amendment, Applicants amend Claims 1, 7, and 13 and add new Claims 19-26. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102**

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,343,313 issued to Salesky et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Each of independent Claims 1, 7, and 13 as amended recites in pertinent part, “monitoring for a respective heartbeat message from each of the server computers involved in the on-line conference” and “if no respective heartbeat message is received from one of the server computers involved in the on-line conference, disconnecting the failed that server computer from the on-line conference.” Support for these limitations is found at, for example, pp. 18 and 19 of the Application as filed. Such limitations of Claims 1, 7, and 13 are not disclosed or taught in Salesky et al. As such, Salesky et al. does not anticipate these independent claims.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and these claims be allowed. Furthermore, because each of Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 depend from one of Claims 1, 7, and 13 and include further limitations, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) also be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

**New Claims**

New Claims 19-26 have been added with this Amendment to further define Applicants’ invention. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 19-26 are fully

supported by the Application as filed, add no new matter, and are allowable over the prior art of record.

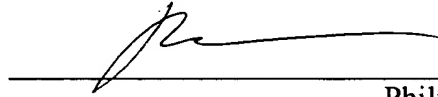
**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.:  
EV 305 258 925 US

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Philip W. Woo  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 39,880  
PWW/rp

June 24, 2004

SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP  
555 California Street, Suite 5000  
San Francisco, CA 94104-1715  
(415) 772-7200